

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC 7 G08B26/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G08B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 406 016 A (ABRAMS BURTON S ET AL) 20 September 1983 (1983-09-20) column 2, line 54 -column 3, line 36; figure 1	1,5,7, 11,42,44
P,X	US 6 078 269 A (GOLDBLATT RICHARD ET AL) 20 June 2000 (2000-06-20) abstract; figure 1	1,11,44

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*A\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 January 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

01/02/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

 European Patent Office, P.B. 5618 Patentlaan 2  
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
 Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
 Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Chapple, I

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4406016	A	20-09-1983	CA 1188740 A	11-06-1985
US 6078269	A	20-06-2000	NONE	